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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR 1957

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Barrister at Law,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.
BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Constituted May, 1957)

Councillor L. H. Goss (Chairman) (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor R. D. Hall (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Glyn Davies (The Mayor)
Alderman C. G. Cousins
Alderman J. S. Holland
Councillor F. B. Howard
Councillor L. E. Purdom
Councillor L. T. Rogers
Councillor N. Thompson
Councillor Mrs. K. M. White
Councillor Mrs. Z. A. P. Williams

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John T. C. Sims-Roberts,

M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Barrister at Law.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Douglas Andrew, C.R.S.H.

Dennis W. Rixon, C.R.S.H.

CLERICAL STAFF

Colin Richardson (1/1/57—11/8/57)

Miss V. Slingsbury (16/9/57—31/12/57)

Eric W. J. Miller

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
“FRIAR’S CROFT,”
OXFORD ROAD,
AYLESBURY.

June, 1958.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and vital statistics of the Borough of Aylesbury for the year 1957, together with the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

During the year there were changes on the clerical side of the Department consequent upon Mr. Colin Richardson and Mr. Eric Miller gaining promotion to higher appointments. Miss V. Slingsbury was appointed Chief Clerk on 16th September, 1957, and Miss N. Harrison Assistant Clerk on 3rd February, 1958.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 335 and only 36 were treated in hospital.

There were two cases of poliomyelitis notified compared with five last year. Both cases were children from the same family, one recovered completely and the other still has some residual paralysis.

Two cases of meningococcal meningitis were notified, and treated at the Isolation Hospital, Stoke Mandeville. Both recovered. No case of food poisoning was notified during the year. The one case of paratyphoid notified was not normally resident in the Borough.

The large majority of the dysentery cases (35 out of a total of 41) were notified from a mental defective institution in the Borough.

The general standard of health in the town remains good, and compares favourably with the rest of the country. Despite the extensive housing programme, however, many residents are still in need of suitable accommodation.

I thank the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for their support during the year, and the staff of the Health Department for their excellent co-operation generally and their assistance in the compiling of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.288 acres
Population (estimated mid 1957)	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,360
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1957 according to Rate Books)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,804
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£362,082
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,462

UNEMPLOYMENT

At 31st December, 1956.	At 31st December, 1957
35 women	58 women
40 men	91 men
	7 girls
	11 boys
<hr/> 75	<hr/> 167

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:—

	1956			1957			
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	...	179	172	351	176	183	359
Illegitimate	...	11	17	28	19	16	35
					1956	1957	
Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.39	17.62	
Rate (corrected)	15.13	15.32	
Rate for England and Wales	15.7	16.1	

Still Births:—

	1956			1957			
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	...	4	4	8	3	5	8
Illegitimate	...	—	2	2	—	2	2
					1956	1957	
Rate per 1,000 estimated population (live and still) births	17.84	18.07	

DEATHS

	1956			1957			
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
Deaths	...	101	106	207	131	106	237
					1956	1957	
Rate per 1,000 estimated population	9.5	10.6	
Standardised Rate	9.22	10.92	
Rate for England and Wales	11.7	11.5	

Death of infants under one year of age:—

	M.	F.	Total	1956	M.	F.	Total	1957
Legitimate ...	3	2	5		6	4	10	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—		1	—	1	

Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

	1956	1957
All infants per 1,000 live births	13.19	27.92
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.25	27.85
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	28.57

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

	M.	F.	Total	1956	M.	F.	Total	1957
Legitimate ...	2	2	4		5	2	7	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—		1	—	1	

	1956	1957
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ...	10.55	20.30

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

	M.	F.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	7
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	9
Coronary disease, angina	23	15
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
Other heart disease	12	21
Other circulatory disease	6	9
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	9	15
Bronchitis	6	—
Other disease of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
Pregnancy, chidbirth, abortion	—	1
Congenital Malformations	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	8
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
All other accidents	3	1
Suicide	2	1
	131	106

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

During the year the Royal Bucks, Tindal General and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals have provided accommodation for surgical and medical cases whilst the Isolation Hospital continued to admit persons suffering from infectious diseases.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital also provided accommodation for paraplegic cases.

The above hospitals situated in the Borough are administered by the Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee who are responsible to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Routine samples of milk, water and ice cream and other specimens requiring pathological examination are submitted to the above. When necessary the services of the Public Health Laboratories at Luton and Oxford are utilised.

Ambulance Services

Eight ambulances, and four sitting case cars are stationed in Buckingham Road for use in the town and surrounding districts.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Infant Welfare Clinics are still held at Pebble Lane, Quarrendon Estate and Southcourt and controlled by the Bucks County Council.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The Bucks County Council control the vaccination of children against this disease.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation

As the Local Health Authority, defined in the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Bucks County Council control the immunisation of children against these diseases.

Treatment of Venereal Disease

The Royal Buckinghamshire and Association Hospitals Management Committee administer a clinic held regularly at the Royal Bucks Hospital for the treatment of the above disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total notifications received			Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	
	1956		1957		1956
	Male.	Female.			1957
Measles	127	124	98	1	—
Whooping Cough	6	17	8	2	—
Dysentery	53	20	21	17	2
Pneumonia	5	—	1	3	1
Scarlet Fever	6	5	8	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	28	—	28	26	27
Poliomyelitis	5	1	1	5	2
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid B	1	—	—	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	2	2	—	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	3	—

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year with Analysis under Age Groups

		Under 1 year.	1 — 2 yrs.	3 — 4 yrs.	5 — 9 yrs.	10 — 14 yrs.	15 — 24 yrs.	25 — 44 yrs.	45 — 65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Age unknown.	Totals.
Measles	7	46	48	116	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	222
Whooping Cough .. .	—	2	4	4	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	25
Dysentery	1	2	2	14	13	5	1	—	—	—	3	41
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	2	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	13
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	10	17	—	—	—	1	28
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Paratyphoid B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
<i>Age Groups</i>				
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	3	—	(1)
15—	3(2)	—(2)	—	—
25—	1(1)	—(3)	—	1
35—	—(2)	1(1)	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	2(2)	1	1	—
65— and upwards	—	1	—	—
Age unknown ..	—	—	—	—
Total	8(7)	6(6)	1	1(1)

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts and who have moved into the Borough during the year.

The Isolation Hospital in Mandeville Road has a block containing 15 beds for the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough is obtained through the Bucks Water Board from wells situated at Dancers End, New Ground and Hawridge, which are on the Chiltern Hills.

Sampling has been carried out during the year by the Water Authority at their wells and also in the town. All samples were satisfactory.

Eleven samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination by this Department from domestic sources in the Borough. Reports proved that the water was satisfactory in all cases.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the main supply and the quantity of water supplied to the town is adequate.

Drainage and Sewerage

The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is partially on the separate system with surface water from streets and buildings being

discharged to water courses (all post-war development is on this system) and partially on the combined system where all surface water discharged into the sewers is treated at the Sewage Disposal Works.

Schemes are being prepared for the separate surface water drainage of several areas now drained on the combined system.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal is carried out completely by controlled tipping, which is giving very satisfactory results. Salvage collection is made before and after tipping of the refuse.

The collection of refuse is done by modern dustless loading types of vehicles and both this service and that of street cleansing continues to be operated in an efficient manner. The maintenance of sufficient labour for this work is still difficult, particularly for the cleansing of streets.

Open-Air Swimming Pool, Park Street

The water in the pool circulates continuously throughout the period of use, being filtered and chlorinated before re-introduction to the swimming pool.

Twelve samples of water were taken during the summer months, several of which fell below the required standard of chlorination. Arrangements have now been made, however, for the installation of a modern chlorination plant.

Slipper Baths, Bourbon Street

The slipper baths continued to be used and their condition throughout the year has been satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

The number of rooms requiring disinfection was six.

Schools

The water supply and sanitary accommodation to all schools in the Borough are adequate.

Local Rainfall

January	1.40 ins.	July	2.40 ins.
February	2.87 ins.	August	2.75 ins.
March	1.33 ins.	September	2.88 ins.
April	0.18 ins.	October	2.40 ins.
May	1.13 ins.	November	1.86 ins.
June	2.04 ins.	December	2.20 ins.
Total rainfall for the year ...	...	...	23.44 ins.
Average for the past 52 years	...	...	24.74 ins.

(Figures supplied by Mr. J. D. Dugdale, Borough Engineer and Surveyor).

Mr. Dugdale stated that rain fell on 151 days during the year, compared with 138 in 1956. The monthly recordings are fairly consistent with previous years, the exception being April, where the recording of 0.18 inches is the lowest for that month since 1938, and the third lowest for the last 52 years.

The highest daily recordings occurred on 30th June—0.90 ins.. and 12th December—0.84 ins.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

Messrs. Nesmilk Ltd., are licensed by the Bucks County Council to pasteurise milk in the Borough. Pasteurisation is carried out on a large scale and their premises are equipped with H.T.S.T. type plant.

The Bucks County Council carry out sampling of this milk at the plant to ensure that it is being efficiently heat treated.

Forty-four samples of milk were taken in course of delivery to the consumer during the year, with the following results:—

Grade.	Samples Taken	Complied with Regulations	Test Inconclusive
Tuberculin Tested	13	11	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	16	16	—
Pasteurised	15	15	—

There were two unsatisfactory "Tuberculin Tested" samples taken during the year. In each case follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	3,188	326	896	10,658	4,122
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	1	5	—	2	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	507	19	1	62	334
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	15.93 %	7.36 %	.11 %	.60 %	8.22 %

Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned..	2	7	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	131	30	—	—	54
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. ..	4.17%	11.35%	—	—	1.31%
Cysticercus Bovis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	4	1	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration ..	4	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Fourteen licences were issued to slaughtermen during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provision as to health.

Premises	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power			
Factories with mechanical power } 43	43	—	—

2. Defects found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7). Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	1

Outwork in unwholesome premises

There are six outworkers' premises in the town, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"FRIAR'S CROFT,"
OXFORD ROAD,
AYLESBURY.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1957.

Housing

Representation of the third Clearance Area in Cambridge Street was not proceeded with during the year because of the difficulty of re-housing. It is hoped that the position will soon be reached when this area can be proceeded with.

Four individual unsit houses were dealt with under the provisions of the Housing Acts and closed for human habitation until rendered fit.

The Rent Act, 1957, which came into force on July 6th, enabled landlords to increase the rent of controlled houses, subject to the right of the tenant to apply for a certificate of disrepair which, if granted by the Local Authority, had the effect of cancelling the increase until the repairs listed were carried out.

Seventeen applications for certificates of disrepair were received, entailing fifty visits of inspection, and four certificates were issued.

General work carried out under the Housing Acts is detailed in the following table.

No. of houses inspected	...	...	31
Visits paid to above houses	...	..	85
Informal Notices served	...	...	7
Statutory Notices served	...	...	—
Houses repaired:—			
By owners	...	...	18
By the Borough Council in default			1

Disinfestation

Only one house was found to be infested with bed bugs during the year, but a number of visits were paid to the Hostel in Bicester Road for this purpose. With this type of accommodation which gives shelter to a moving population of the labouring classes it is almost inevitable that we shall get complaints of infestation from

time to time, but the use of modern synthetic insecticides continues to give effective control over these pests, and I do not anticipate any great trouble from this source.

Public Health Act

The following is a summary of the work carried out under the above Act.

The majority of Statutory Notices under this Act dealt with repairs to sewers under Section 24 of the Act, which are carried out by the Council, the costs being recovered from the owners of the properties served.

No. of houses inspected	...	...	28
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	53
Drainage visits	...	...	370
Nuisances found	...	...	30
Nuisances abated	...	...	30
Informal notices served	...	...	4
Statutory notices served	...	...	11

All the notices were complied with.

Food

Slaughterhouses

The work of inspection at the slaughterhouses was continued during the year, and 100% inspection was maintained. This continues to be one of the most important aspects of the department's work.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis, apart from pigs, has again shown an appreciable decrease. It is anticipated that with the introduction of the tuberculosis eradication area this trend will be continued until tuberculosis is eradicated from the slaughterhouses entirely.

905 visits to slaughterhouses were made during the year and some 305 hours of overtime were worked.

The number of animals slaughtered and results of inspections are shown in the following tables.

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year:

Quarter	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1st	111	812	269	2107	1079	4,378
2nd	78	645	185	2182	757	3,847
3rd	72	816	224	3346	896	5,354
4th	65	915	218	3023	1390	5,611
Totals	326	3,188	896	10,658	4,122	19,190

Tables showing Condemned Organs of Animals
CATTLE

	Head	Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Pluck	Spleen	Kidneys	Skirt
Distoma									
Hepaticum	..	76	76	425					
Tuberculosis	..	76	23	106	1			2	3
Abscessed	..		65	7					
Pleurisy	..			6					
Cystic	..		2	1					
Actinobacillosis	..	3	5						
Necrosis	..		1						
Cysticercus Bovis	..	4	4		1				
Fasciolae	..								
Inflammation			6	13	5		9		4
Congestion	..			9					
Nephritis	..							1	
Tumoured	..		2						
Actinomycosis	..	5	3						
Cavernous									
Angioma	..			3					

Carcasses Condemned (including all offal)

Generalised Tuberculosis	..	..	9
Dropsical	..	..	1
Dropsy and Emaciation	..	..	1
General Emaciation	..	..	1
Septic Peritonitis	..	..	1
Septic and Fevered	..	..	2
Total	...		15

In addition to the above, five carcasses were found to be affected with Cysticercus Bovis and transferred to cold storage before being released for human consumption.

SHEEP

	Head	Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Pluck
Parasitic	..		27			
Abscessed	..		1			
Distoma Hepaticum	..		28			
Inflammation	..	2		3	2	
Pneumonia	..			1		2
Pleurisy	..			1		
Oedema	..	1				1

Carcase Condemned (including all offal)

Oedema	..	..	1
Septic Peritonitis	..	..	1
Total	...		2

PIGS

	Head	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Pluck	Kidneys
Pneumonia and Pleurisy	...		169	9	11	
Inflammation	...	3	24	46	6	
Fatty Change	...	1				
Malformation	...	1				
Pericarditis	...			6		
Congestion	...		1			
Tuberculosis	...	53			3	
Cystic	...					2
Parasitic	...		66		4	
Cirrhosis	...		10			2
Nephritis	...					
Melanotic	...		1			
Dropsy	...				1	

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Uraemia	...	...	...	...	1
Dropsy	...	...	...	...	1
Oedema and Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	1
Swine Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Septic Peritonitis and Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	1
	Total	...			5

CALVES

	Pluck
Septic	...

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

NIL

Weight of Condemned Meat and Offal

	lbs.
Cow Beef	...
Cow Offal	...
Other Beef	...
Other Bovine Offal	...
Pork	...
Pig Offal	...
Mutton	...
Sheep Offal	...
Calf Offal	...
	Total

21,747

Total: 9 tons 14 cwts. 19 lbs.

Fourteen slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough.

	Weight		Number
	Lbs.	Ozs.	
Fish	56	—	—
Cheese	247	11	—
Fresh Meat	948	4	—
Tinned Vegetables . . .	334	9	369
,, Fruit	1017	11	822
,, Meat	445	13	180
,, Fish	26	12	42
,, Milk	184	2	98
Preserves	20	14	20
Miscellaneous	256	14	127
Total	3,538	10	1,658

Total Foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

Meat and Offal . . .	9 tons	14 cwts.	19 lbs.	— ozs.
Various Foodstuffs . .	1 ton	11 cwts.	66 lbs.	10 ozs.
Total . . .	11 tons	5 cwts.	85 lbs.	10 ozs.

Disposal of condemned food is left to the retailer.

Milk and Dairies

As mentioned previously in my reports the majority of dairy-men in the town retail milk in the bottles and containers in which they receive it from the wholesalers. This has meant that the work of inspection of retail dairies is not so necessary as in previous years, and fifteen visits were made for this purpose during the year.

Milk producers are licensed and controlled by the County Agricultural Committee, acting as agents for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, while the firms pasteurising milk are licensed by the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority.

The sampling of milk in course of delivery was maintained to ensure that the milk conformed to the required standards and that the housewife was getting the grade of milk for which she paid and milk which would keep for as long as she required to use it. The results of these samples are contained in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

No action against milk retailers for contravention of the Regulation was necessary during the year.

Licences under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 to 1953, were issued as follows:—

“Tuberculin Tested,” “Pasteurised” and “Sterilised” Licences:—

The Aylesbury Co-operative Society Ltd., 79/85 High Street, Aylesbury.

Nestle Co. Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.

A. T. Piggot, 139 Wendover Road, Aylesbury.

Hornby & Clarke Ltd., Princes Street, Richmond in respect of 37, Buckingham Street and 15, St. John's Street, Aylesbury.

“Tuberculin Tested” and “Pasteurised” licences:—

T. C. White, The Prince of Wales Public House, Broughton.

A. Tilbrook, 125, Oxford Road, Aylesbury.

H. H. Willis, 2, Ascott Road, Aylesbury.

F. J. Child, 156, Cambridge Street, Aylesbury.

L. J. Evett & Co., 99, Park Street, Aylesbury.

W. H. Willis, 6, Manor Drive, Aylesbury.

W. Cartwright & Sons, 61, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.

W. Hodgkins, 87, Wendover Road, Aylesbury.

S. Hall, 12, Cambridge Place, Aylesbury.

G. W. Warner, 56, Victoria Street, Aylesbury.

A. Willis, 3, Tindal Road, Aylesbury.

T. Elliott, 41, Market Square, Aylesbury.

“Pastuerised” licences:—

J. H. Jones, Red House Farm, Stoke Mandeville.

F. J. Davis, Old House Dairy, Bierton.

“Tuberculin Tested” licence:—

Nesmilk Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.

Ice Cream

Ninety-two premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, and in the majority of cases pre-packed ice cream made by one of the large wholesale firms is sold. Only one person manufactured ice cream in the Borough, and in this case a cold mix ice cream using previously heat treated ingredients was produced.

As most of the ice cream sold in the Borough comes from some four wholesale firms, it would be mere repetition to take samples from all the retailers. Twenty samples were submitted for analysis during the year and all proved satisfactory. Forty-one visits were paid to registered premises.

Food Shops, Restaurants, etc.

The visits made to food shops, restaurants and food preparing premises for the purpose of examining foodstuffs and observing the

compliance with or breach of the requirements of Food and Drugs Act, Regulations and Byelaws, are set out in the following table. The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene is good and no statutory action was necessary during the year. Continual vigilance is needed in this field to ensure that the standards are maintained, and that the facilities provided by the owners are properly used by the employees.

Market Stalls	...	...	...	599
Grocers	...	...	...	121
Butchers	...	...	...	47
Restaurants	...	...	...	38
Fishmongers	...	...	...	3
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	7

Water Supply

Every house in the Borough is supplied with piped water obtained from the Chiltern Hills by the Bucks Water Board.

The standard of bacterial purity of the water remained satisfactory. Eleven samples taken during the year satisfied the standards laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

This section of the department's duties continues on much the same level from year to year. Although no major infestations were discovered during the year it is evident from the number of small infestations found each year that any slackening in this work would result in a very marked increase in the rat and mouse population of the Borough.

The sewers were treated in April and November and infestation was discovered in 36 manholes which were baited. For the first time Warfarin was used in the sewers and extended baiting, the bait being treated with a mould inhibitor, was resorted to. This method proved its worth as it will be noted that bait was taken in 36 manholes as against 28 the previous year, it being almost certain that the takes in the further eight manholes were due to the extended baiting methods employed which give the rats a longer period in which to find and take the bait. This method of baiting will be continued, and it is hoped that the same results will be obtained here as have been in other parts of the country where this work was done experimentally, and where several sections of sewers, previously infested, have been cleared of rats.

Warfarin has again been used for all normal surface treatments, and continues to give good results.

Twenty-six annual agreements with various firms in the town for a total sum of £255 are in operation, all the premises being visited periodically and treated as necessary. The cost of all other work done on business premises was recovered and amounted to £29 3s. 6d. A free service is given to private householders, half the cost being met by an Exchequer Grant.

The Borough are constituent members of the North Bucks Workable Area Rodent Control Committee which meets twice yearly to discuss matters of mutual interest and receive reports from the Ministry Officers of new methods and improved techniques of rodent control. I again had the honour to be Chairman of this Committee for the last year.

Forty wasps nests were destroyed during the year.

Private Premises treated	246
Business Premises treated	196
Local Authority Premises treated	23
Rat bodies found	370
Mouse bodies found	122
Points laid—Private Premises	670
Points laid—Business Premises	683
Points laid—Local Authority Premises	174
Manholes treated	60
Visits made by Public Health Inspectors ...	96

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Mechanical factories on register requiring visiting ...	91
Non-mechanical factories on register requiring visiting ...	26
Visits paid to factories	43

Shops Act, 1950

All shops in the Borough continue to close at hours earlier than those allowed in the Act, and no action was necessary against any shopkeeper for non-compliance with the Shops Act.

Petroleum

Licences issued for storage of Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures ...	68
Licences issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium	1
Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores	17

Quantity licenced to be stored:

Petroleum Spirit	147,124 gallons.
Petroleum Mixtures	1,455 gallons.
Carbide of Calcium	300 lbs.
Total of Licence Fees	£53 10s. 0d.

Public Conveniences

The general standard of cleanliness and efficiency in the Public Conveniences has been maintained throughout the year.

The conveniences in the High Street, Old Stoke Road and at the Cattle Market continue to be kept open all night. 367 inspections of conveniences were made during the year.

Miscellaneous

Other work of the Department not covered by any of the previous headings include the following:—

Miscellaneous Public Health Visits	...	575
Interviews	...	463
Complaints received and investigated	...	111
Infected house visits	...	31
Smoke observations	...	7
Moveable Dwellings inspected	...	3
Marine Stores visits	...	2

General

The only new legislation in the year was the Rent Act which has already been dealt with in the Housing Section of the report.

Mr. C. Richardson, the Chief Clerk, left the service of the department in August, and was replaced in September by Miss V. Slingsbury of Whitstable, who has given satisfactory service.

The Junior Clerk, Mr. Eric Miller, was successful in obtaining his Public Health Inspector's Certificate during the year, and it is anticipated that he will shortly be leaving to take up a post as Public Health Inspector.

In conclusion I would once again like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and Committee for their continued help and confidence, to members of my staff for their co-operation and support, and to my fellow officers for advice and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, F.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Borough Public Health Inspector.